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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 26, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, Applicants submit the following remarks discussing patentability of pending claims. Applicants respectfully request that the application be passed to issue.

Applicants are appreciative of the Examiner's review of the claims and encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned Attorney at any time to further prosecution of the pending application.

The Examiner waived the fee due for filing of the IDS with this reply. However, if a fee is due, please charge deposit account 50-3735 associated with Chapin IP Law, LLC.

Objection to the Title

Applicants have amended the title in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Objection to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to delete references to docket numbers in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Claims 30 and 64

With respect to claims 30 and 64, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in acceptable form in accordance with corresponding rules, statutes, and case law. See the discussion of functional descriptive language encoded on a computer readable medium in MPEP 2106. For example, a claim to a proper computer readable medium encoded with functional descriptive material that can function with a computer to effect a useful, concrete and tangible result (e.g.

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running an assembly line or executing a stock transaction) satisfies the practical application test. The present claims recite useful method for retrieving data and thus satisfies this test.

Request for Prior Art

Applicants submit an IDS along with this reply including several issued patents and documents that may be considered as relevant prior art. Applicants don't believe that any of these references anticipates the claimed invention nor renders the claimed invention obvious. However, the Examiner is encouraged to perform his own independent analysis. Of course, because there is a potential for disagreement, Applicants reserve the right to respond to any findings presented by the Examiner.

In general, the background of the subject application discusses pros/cons associated with use of memory versus disk storage devices. Applicants are unaware of any prior art systems or methods that provide the same functionality as recited by the pending claims. For this reason, Applicants submitted the subject application in pursuant of patent protection.

The Examiner sets forth a statement regarding what he feels to be a main embodiment of the invention. The Examiner describes the main embodiment as "servicing" of a request at a node by either accessing local memory in an access node or memory in a remote access node. This may be one differentiation of the claimed invention over the prior art. However, Applicants submit that there may be other differences over the prior art since each claim includes different, very specific language with respect to the claimed invention.

Applicants point out that there is commonality amongst all of the independent claims. For example, the claims recite one or more novel ways of

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servicing access requests via use of functions such as translation, arbitration, etc. The specification describes this concept in significant detail.

The Examiner requests a statement by the Applicants whether all pending claims are supported by language in the specification. By way of this reply, Applicants submit that the language in the claims is either identical or equivalent to the language in the specification. Thus, the claims are drafted in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. Section 112.

Also, Applicants believe that the present language in the claims is also supported by either identical or equivalent language presented in the provisional applications, to which the subject application claims priority. However, the Examiner is encouraged to perform his own independent analysis regarding these two matters. Because there is a potential for disagreement, Applicants reserve the right to respond to any findings presented by the Examiner.

Applicants have canceled claim 47 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

CONCLUSION

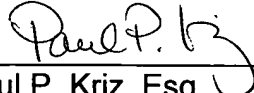
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims as well as newly added claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after reviewing this Response, that the pending claims are not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant(s) Representative at the number below.

If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned Attorney at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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